

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4125
ANSWERED ON:09.08.2002
ENCOURAGEMENT TO JUTE BAGS
JAGMEET SINGH BRAR

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether banned plastic bags are manufactured, sold and used in all big cities in India;
- (b) if so, the steps taken to encourage manufacture of light jute bags to discourage the use of plastic bags;
- (c) whether sufficient jute is available in India to replace plastic bags; and
- (d) if not, the steps taken to increase the production of jute in India?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES SHRI BASANAGOUDA R. PATIL (YATNAL)

(a) The manufacturing and use of carry bags made of recycled and virgin plastics, which conform to the conditions stipulated in the Recycled Plastics Manufacture and Usage Rules, 1999 are permissible. As per these rules, the minimum thickness of carry bags made of virgin plastics or recycled plastics shall not be less than 20 microns. These rules are applicable for the whole of India and are being implemented through the prescribed authorities.

(b) In order to encourage manufacture of light jute bags, the Government of India has been providing financial assistance to National Centre for Jute Diversification (NCJD) and Jute Manufactures Development Council (JMDC). These two agencies have been working for promoting use of jute bags both in domestic and international markets by organizing campaigns, fairs, exhibitions, contact promotion programmes, buyer-seller meets etc. In order to encourage research, the Government is also assisting Indian Jute Industries Research Association (IJIRA) by providing financial help. A scheme introduced recently, titled 'Incentive Scheme for Modernization of Jute Industry' is being implemented by the Jute Manufactures Development Council (JMDC) from out of the cess collected by Department of Revenue. The scheme aims to provide a financial assistance of 15% of the cost of selected jute machinery for up-gradation of technology in the jute mills.

(c) & (d) The average production of raw jute and jute goods during the last three years is enclosed as Annex-A. In order to assist jute growers, the Government announces Minimum Support Price (MSP) for raw jute and mesta every year. In addition, Government also provides support to jute farmers and persons engaged in the manufacture of jute articles under the Jute Packaging Materials (Compulsory Use in Packing Commodities) Act, 1987.

Annexure - A

PRODUCTION OF JUTE GOODS Qty: In 000` tonnes

April-March Hessian Sacking C.B.C. Others Total

1999-2000	344.5	909.2	8.0	328.5	1590.2
2000-2001	337.9	952.9	6.6	327.5	1624.9
2001-2002	275.3	1034.3	5.0	286.2	1600.8
2002-2003					

(April`02-May`02) 48.0 139.7 0.5 42.5 230.8

PRODUCTION OF RAW JUTE

(Qty: In lakh bales)

Year Total

1999-2000 78.58
2000-2001 94.00
2001-2002 105.00
2002-2003

(Estimated) 115.00